

# Wandsworth Society

Newsletter April / May 2018

## *And the winners\* are ...*



Tara Arts Theatre



Chadwick Hall University of Roehampton



Earlsfield Pub Garratt Lane



Contemporary residential extension



The Ice House, Burntwood School - before – and after

**\* of the Wandsworth Design Awards 2017**

**(announced March 2018)**

# Planning News - Spring 2018

*'Wot's new or what's news!?' asks Philip Whyte. After some busy months the Planning group may be having a short time to draw breath, he reports!*

## **B&Q site, Swandon Way**

Following PAC approval of the application, we considered the Committee report and concluded that the Council was concerned that, if it had refused the application, the Mayor would have called it in and approved it, as he did with Homebase.

## **Draft London Plan**

The Mayor has published proposals that largely endorse existing policies. One major change is to intensify the use of land around transport "nodes" – sites within 800 metres of rail stations, major bus stops/interchanges or other centres of passenger transport. The implications concern us: the nature of more suburban areas could change drastically. On our doorstep, the area around Wandsworth Town Station to the south is occupied by small business units, with McDonalds and Mercedes Benz sites to the north, to say nothing of the nearby Southern Gas site. We won't be able to see the sky soon!

## **National Planning Policy Framework Review**

Hot on the heels of the new London Plan came the NPPF review. Its main thrust is to increase the provision of housing of all sorts and appropriate infrastructure. It appears that the review will seek to endorse 'green belts' (as if we had to worry!) but retain as much urban open space and trees as possible. However, we are aware from local decisions in recent years how easily such policies may be forgotten or conflict with others. We shall be commenting (as we have on the draft London Plan).

## **Thames Tideway Tunnel**

Work continues on the two sites in our area, King George's Park and Dormay Street. Tree felling is now complete in the Park; setting out work continues. The river wall piling is complete at Dormay Street; a new pedestrian footbridge for site employees is in place across Bell Lane

Creek. The writer has been impressed at progress meetings by the openness and professionalism of the contractors. We are unlikely to face the disruption experienced across the river at Carnworth Road.

## **Design Awards**

The writer served on the selection panel for the Council's 2018 Design Awards. Some winners are on the cover of this Newsletter. You can read more about the Awards on the Council website.

## **Proposed new conservation area**

The Council is currently appraising the Wandsworth Town conservation area. There is a proposal that an increased area of the 'Tonsleys' should be included. Comments to the Council are invited. The group itself expects to comment.

## **New electronic communication hubs**

a new form of street "base stations" replacing telephone boxes, with free standing open sided phone facilities). The new hubs provide wifi connection to many hand-held devices. Other electronic facilities include advertising. The scheme is being rolled out by a BT associate who received consents for 27 locations in the borough last autumn. The new facilities will be able to "track" the user devices' location. Could "Big Brother" be following you? Hopefully, I exaggerate...

Philip Whyte

Let us know if you have planning concerns on which we may be able to help. Contact [philip.whyte@fraserwhyte.co.uk](mailto:philip.whyte@fraserwhyte.co.uk)

## **Neal's Lodge**

The Council's appeal against the High Court ruling last year (that the Council had acted unlawfully in awarding a contract for the use of Neal's Lodge as a commercially run pre-school) was heard by the Court of Appeal on 19 April. We understand that it may be some time before the result is announced. The judgement should be of much interest, not only for Wandsworth, but for local authorities elsewhere as well.

David Kirk

## Officers and other Committee members

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**Chair Margaret Romanski**  
30 Wandle Road, SW17 7DW  
07815 937779  
mromanski@btinternet.com

**Vice-Chair David Kirk**  
15 Aspley Road, SW18 2DB  
020 8874 9167  
davidcameronkirk@hotmail.com

**Secretary John Dawson**  
210 Beechcroft Road, SW17 7DP  
020 8772 4282

**Treasurer Norman Holmes**  
Flat 7 Tiffany Heights,  
59 Standen Road, SW18 5TF  
020 8877 9616

**Membership Secretary Gill Gray**  
Studio 8, Royal Victoria Patriotic  
Building, SW18 3SX  
020 8870 4567

## Other Committee members

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**Iain Gray ('Bedside' editor)**  
contact details as above as for Gill Gray

**Bruce St Julian-Bown (Open Spaces lead)**  
39c Heathfield Road, SW18 2PH  
020 8874 6966

**Philip Whyte (Planning Group lead)**  
49 West Side, SW18 2EE  
020 8874 4745

**Events Team lead Caroline Pook,**  
caroline@pookfamily.co.uk

## From the Editor

For those of you who may not yet have heard the news, I am delighted to tell you that, at our AGM on 15 March, Margaret Romanski was unanimously elected to succeed me as Chair of the Society. Her colleagues on our Executive committee and Planning group know that she will bring a fresh pair of eyes and a lively intelligence to bear on the management and future direction of the Society. In her 'day job' Margaret is the Finance Director of Designers Guild.

Philip Whyte has stood down after three years as Vice-Chairman. The Society is very grateful for all the hard work he continues to do for us, from chairing the Planning group - to 'setting up' and closing West Side Church for our meetings! For some reason, I was elected to succeed Philip in the 'Vice' Chair and Margaret has asked me to continue to 'lead' on communications and as Newsletter editor- an 8-page issue is planned for early June.

Harry Waddingham retired from the Exec. We are grateful to him for his contribution to its work and - for a longer period - as Chair of the Roads and Transport group - which its members hope he may continue.

By the time you read this we shall know the outcome of the Council elections. I am glad that we attracted an audience of about 90 people for a lively 'hustings' event that involved both the Council and Opposition leaders, and Lib Dem and Green Party candidate. My apologies that there was no time to answer some of the questions submitted in advance.

David Kirk

## The Society walks and talks ... *and parties*

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Thursday 10 May

7.45 for 8pm

West Side Church

corner Melody Road and Allfarthing Lane, SW11 2QQ

### Panorama of the Thames

A presentation by John R Inglis and Jill Sanders of their filmed record of a restored 1829 'Panorama of the Thames' from Westminster to Richmond – which shows the architecture and open spaces on both banks (including Wandsworth!). The original Panorama is interwoven with contemporary film of what we can see today.



WANDSWORTH ARTS  
**FRINGE**

This meeting is the Society's contribution to the Wandsworth Arts Fringe Festival 4-20 May 2018 - see [www.wandsworthfringe.com](http://www.wandsworthfringe.com) or pick up a programme at your local library.

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Thursday 17 May

9.30 am at Clapham Junction Station

### Walk 'The Line'

We will take a gentle 2 ½ mile stroll along The Line, a collection of sculptures, many by eminent modern artists (including Anthony Gormley and Damian Hirst), following the Meridian from the Olympic Park to the O2, including a trip on the Emirates Airline and a stop to see an innovative community project at Cody Dock on the River Lea. Meet at 9.30am outside Simply Food in the mall inside Clapham Junction Station. No booking required.

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Wednesday 6 June

7.45 for 8pm

at Naturescope on Wandsworth Common – note the venue for this meeting.

### Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park, then and now

Dave Dawson has researched the history of this fine 18th century landscaped park. Hear how it came to be, was eroded by London's spread - and how the valuable, but at risk, remaining part became a Grade II\* Heritage Landscape.

• The Nature Centre, next to the Skylark Café, off Dorlcote Road, Wandsworth SW18 3RT



Thursday 19 July

### Summer Evening Party

at Le Gothique (in the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building) on Wandsworth Common, SW18 3SX, with saxophone music and a buffet supper. Register interest on [wandsworthsocietyevents@gmail.com](mailto:wandsworthsocietyevents@gmail.com) or phone Caroline Pook (8870 4958). Further details will to be announced.